

The mission of the Tourism and Convention Fund is to support and promote tourism and convention activity in Wichita.

Overview

The Tourism and Convention Fund, financed through a six percent transient guest tax on hotel and motel rooms in Wichita, provides monies to support tourism and convention, infrastructure, and promotion in the City. Guest tax funds are governed by the provisions of Charter Ordinance No. 91 authorizing funding of convention and tourism activities and operation or maintenance of Century II.

Finance and Operations

The Tourism and Convention Fund finances and operations are well defined and prioritized, based on language in Charter Ordinances. Fund priorities are: 1) debt service for tourism and convention facilities; 2) operational deficit subsidies and 3) care and maintenance of Century II. Obligations connected to debt service and improvements require the major portion of the Fund's capacity. Funds are also allocated to general tourism and convention promotion, primarily through the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Recent capital investments in convention facilities in the East Bank and Old Town areas have added new debt, increasing the fund's annual expenditures. Debt service on a conference center parking facility and the new Century II and Expo Hall energy complex began in 1998. Obligations associated with the Hotel at Old Town parking facility started in 2000. Most significantly, the City's annual debt service commitment to the East Bank conference center began in 2000. The East Bank debt service escalates to over \$1.2 million in 2005 and has a considerable impact on the amount of funding available for other projects. Location fees are also included in this year's budget for the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC), scheduled in 2004.

Highlights

- ✓ Increases allocation for Tourism and Convention activities by 4 percent over 2002 Adopted Budget levels in 2002 Revised and 1 percent annually in 2003 and 2004 to match projected revenue growth.
- ✓ Increases transfers to debt service to match debt service schedule for CII/Expo Hall.
- ✓ 2004 is the final WIBC allocation prior to the 2006 event.

Tourism and Convention Fund Budget Summary					
	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2002 Revised	2003 Adopted	2004 Approved
Total Revenue	4,646,179	5,150,630	4,634,080	4,632,580	4,678,910
Budgeted Expenditures:					
Century II/Expo Hall	2,793,720	2,396,280	2,699,280	2,626,090	2,656,510
Promotion / Convention	1,167,348	1,239,170	1,238,330	1,249,960	1,255,840
Tourism Initiative & Marketing	404,330	529,150	600,000	577,500	582,530
Other	147,980	966,010	174,030	179,030	184,030
Total Expenditures	4,513,378	5,130,610	4,711,640	4,632,580	4,678,910
Fund Balance	264,015	253,060	175,500	175,500	175,500